

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 036618

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TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

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AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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FOLLOWING REPEATS CARACAS 1397 ACTIONDEPT INFO SAN JOSE

MEXICO CITY PORT OF SPAIN FEB 5TH

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 1397

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, EWWT, XL, XX, XM

SUBJECT: PROPOSED FORMATION OF MULTINATIONAL CARIBBEAN
AREA SHIPPING ORGANIZATION

PASS TO R. GAGE, MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

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PAGE 02 STATE 036618

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ON FEBRUARY 4 LOCAL PRESS REPORTED

MEETINGS IN CARACAS BETWEEN VENEZUELAN AND MEXICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS MEXICAN PROPOSAL FOR FORMATION OF MULTINATIONAL MERCHANT SHIPPING ORGANIZATION COMPOSED OF 17 CARIBBEAN AREA NATIONS, EXCLUDING THE UNITED STATES. MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY RUBEN GONZALEZ SOSA WAS REPORTEDLY ASSURED BY VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ THAT HE "COULD COUNT ON VENEZUELA'S WHOLE-HEARTED SUPPORT" OF THE PROPOSED VENTURE. ACCORDING TO THE MEXICAN UNDERSECRETARY, FUNDAMENTAL GOAL OF PROPOSED ENTERPRISE IS TO INCREASE TRADE BETWEEN CARIBBEAN NATIONS SO THAT THEY MAY ALL CEASE BEING PRIMARILY EXPORTERS OF RAW MATERIALS. HE ALSO INDICATED, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THAT FORMATION OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATION IS THE "FIRST STEP TOWARDS

THE ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF THE NATIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN AREA."

2. FINAL DECISION AND PLANS CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSED ENTERPRISE WILL BE SUBJECT MEETING BETWEEN CARIBBEAN NATIONS INVOLVED SCHEDULED FOR LATE APRIL OR EARLY MAY AT SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA. AMONG TOPICS FOR DISCUSSIONS WILL BE PURCHASE AND FINANCING OF VESSELS, ROUTES, POOLING AND SAILING ARRANGEMENTS AS WELL AS OTHER TOPICS RELATED TO THE UNDERTAKING. END UNCLASSIFIED

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: INDUSTRY SPOKESMEN HERE INDICATE THAT TALKS HAVE JUST NOW BEGUN AT POLITICAL LEVEL AND IT MAY BE SOME TIME BEFORE THEY BEGIN AT COMMERCIAL LEVEL. UNTIL SUCH TIME, THEY ARE RELUCTANT TO VOICE OPINIONS OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT VENEZUELA, OR MEXICO FOR THAT MATTER, WILL RELINQUISH ANY OF THEIR NATIONS PLANS CONCERNING DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE MERCHANT MARINES AND FOREIGN TRADE; ON THE CONTRARY, IT APPEARS THAT ULTERIOR MOTIVES OF BOTH VENEZUELA AND MEXICO IS TO "SHOW THE FLAG" OF THEIR RESPECTIVE NATIONS THEREBY SPREADING THEIR INFLUENCE AMONG THE SMALLER, LESS DEVELOPED NATIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN.

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